THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): The details of proposals/projects received from Kerala Government and funds sanctioned are as under:

2002-2003

(i) Rs. 2.40 lakhs was sanctioned to Kottarakkara Thampuram Memorial Museum of Classical Art, Kottarakara P.O., Kolam District, Kerala for Modernisation of Museum.

(ii) A proposal was also received from Kerala State Science & Technology Museum, Thiruvananthapuram, but the proposal was not recommended for grant by Expert Committee.

2003-2004

(i) Rs. 1.00 crore was sanctioned to Kerala Government for Construction of Multi-Purpose Cultural Complex at Kerala.

(ii) Rs. 5.00 lakhs was sanctioned to Guru Gopinath Natana Gramam Society, Vattiyoorkvu, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala for Modernisation of Galleries.

(iii) Rs. 2.00 lakhs was sanctioned to Government of Kerala for organizing 'Seminar on Classical Dance.'

Besides the above, Rs. 15.00 lakhs was provided to support Kudiyattam during 2003-2004.

There are two Manuscript Research Centre in Kerala under the National Manuscripts Mission *viz.* Oriental Manuscripts Library (Kerala University) and Thunchan Memorial Research Centre at Tirur.

Safety of Taj Mahal

337. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the security matters taken by Government for the safety of Taj Mahal;

(b) whether there was a fire near Taj followed by another fire; and

(c) what were the reasons for which these fire could not be prevented?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Central Industrial Security Force has been deployed for the internal security

of Taj Mahal with effect from 1st May, 2002. The external security of Taj Mahal is being looked after by the Uttar Pradesh Police.

(b) and (c) No such report of fire followed by another fire near Taj Mahal has been received by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Promotion of Diverse Culture of the Country

338. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote and preserve the diverse culture of the country;

(b) whether Government would set up 'Culture Parks' in the Metropolitan cities of the country in order to promote the culture; and

(c) what measures are being undertaken to spread the richness of our culture abroad?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The mandate of this Ministry is to preserve and promote all forms of Art and Culture. The functional spectrum of the Ministry is ranging from generating cultural awareness at the grassroots level to promoting cultural exchanges at an international level. The activities are carried out through the Attached/ Subordinate and Autonomous Institutions and a number of Schemes under the Ministry.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) The Ministry of Culture has been actively pursuing the policy of cultural cooperation with many countries by entering into Cultural Agreements and further developing them into Cultural Exchange Programmes.

Historical documents

339. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that historic documents lying in official custodian of the National Archives are not properly preserved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for preservation of these documents?